President’s Message

By Dr. Tracy Ward

Dear Colleagues,

Hello, and I hope you all are having a wonderful summer! I recently had the pleasure of hosting some old friends from the Lower 48 for a week. During the course of their visit, we talked about a lot of things, including the challenges facing veterinarians across the country, the state of Alaska, and especially in my community of Juneau. They were shocked at some of the situations I relayed to them, and extremely supportive and concerned, both for me personally and for our whole profession. It was a timely reminder that what we do really does matter to people and that most pet owners value their veterinarians. I hope each one of our members has had the chance to recharge and reflect this summer, as well as experience clients who appreciate them!

The primary news since our Winter newsletter pertains to our legislative efforts to obtain exemption for veterinarians from participating in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. The PDMP Committee (Drs. McKayla Dick, Mary Ann Hollick, Jim Delker, Sarah Coburn, and myself), as well as Dr. Rachel Berngartt from the Board of Veterinary Examiners, were stymied in our efforts to get this legislation across the finish line. Our Senate Bill 132 moved quickly through its committee hearings and was passed in the Senate without a single “nay” vote. However, the bill was left stuck in the House by the co-chairs of the House Health and Social Services and was only heard at the end of the session without enough time to move it to a floor vote. Through our meetings with over 30 members of the House of Representatives, we knew we had enough votes for the bill to pass, but a vote was not allowed. This was a frustrating and disappointing end to the legislative session for all of us who worked for this bill. HOWEVER, we are determined to bring this legislation forward again at next session in January 2023 and already have firm support and commitment from our many co-sponsors of the bills. We GREATLY appreciate every member of the
AKVMA who called, wrote, and personally spoke with their Senators and Representatives—you DID make a difference and we are confident the PDMP exemption will come to fruition in the next Legislative Session.

Your Conference Committee and (especially!) our amazing Executive Director have been working hard preparing for our annual conference to be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage October 7-9. We are excited about the great list of speakers and topics that we have put together and hope to see you there. Remember, license renewal happens in December, so if you need a few more CE credits (or even if you don’t!) this is a great opportunity to learn, network, and participate in your state VMA, as well as pick up new product information at the tradeshow. Our vendors have really committed to our profession this conference, after a couple years of limited travel/sponsorship due to the pandemic. We appreciate their support and look forward to all of the great information they provide.

And speaking of “participate in your state VMA”….the Board of Directors has a few vacancies! If you are interested in volunteering with us, we will be electing a new President-Elect and Member-At-Large at our annual membership meeting on October 8. Any member can contact Pat Anderson (the AKVMA Executive Director) at execdir@akvma.org to discuss any of these positions. Please consider throwing your hat in the ring!

Election Results

Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Coburn and Dr. Amanda Taylor! Both were elected by the membership to represent AKVMA in the AVMA house of delegates. A special election was held in June per AVMA’s request for delegates to be named by July 1.

Dr. Sarah Coburn will be our new alternate delegate to the AVMA and Dr. Amanda Taylor will progress from alternate delegate to delegate. Their four year terms will begin immediately following the AKVMA symposium.

Thank you to Dr. Mary Ann Hollick who has served as delegate or alternate delegate to the AVMA HOD since 2006. A longtime supporter of the AKVMA, Dr. Hollick has been very engaged in legislative issues and is a strong advocate for the advancement of the veterinary profession.
Emerging Leader Opportunity
AVMA Leadership Conference

AKVMA is inviting members that are in their 0-15 post-graduation years to apply for paid registration, air fare, and lodging to the 2023 AVMA Leadership Conference. Next year’s conference will be January 5-7, 2023 in Chicago. One AKVMA member will be selected for this exceptional opportunity! You’ll join AKVMA’s president-elect and our AVMA delegates in attending this event!

Apply by September 25, 2022—Submit a short summary describing why you became a veterinarian, where you see yourself in the next 10 years and how you think attending the conference will be of benefit to you and your practice. Submit summary to: execdir@akvma.org. The veterinarian selected will be notified in October and asked to write a summary of their experience for the AKVMA News after attending the event next January.

Book Early!
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel
Early Bird Room Rates until 9/13

Book your room by Sept. 13 to receive special room rate of $107/night (plus tax) during the symposium dates.

Special room rate can only be obtained by booking through a special online link found on our website at www.akvma.org/symposium/

Bring your knowledge... energy... and expertise to the table!

AKVMA is seeking nominations for:
- President-Elect (serves 3 years on the board: president-elect 1st year; president 2nd year; and past president 3rd year)
- Member-at-Large (term is not limited and person has the option to remain on the board after 1 year)

Contact Pat Anderson at execdir@akvma.org for more information.

Registration is Open! Join Us!
AKVMA Symposium
October 7—9, 2022
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel
401 East 6th Ave
Anchorage Alaska

Hurry—Early bird Registration Until 9/13/22
www.akvma.org/symposium/

Book Early!
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Special room rate can only be obtained by booking through a special online link found on our website at www.akvma.org/symposium/
Thank you to Lakefield Veterinary Group
DIAMOND sponsor of the 2022 AKVMA Symposium

See What's Possible
Are you interested in joining one of our Alaska teams?
Explore Our Careers: bit.ly/LFakvma22

Your Dream, Your Vision, Your Legacy.
We want to invest in our Doctors and team, just as you invest in your work, education and patients. Maintaining the highest medical and ethical standards in veterinary medicine is important to us, and is a prerequisite for joining our team. We are looking for potential candidates with excellent communication skills, the ability to interact well with other Doctors, team members, and clients, has a sense of humor, and most importantly, has a passion for veterinary medicine.
AKVMA SYMPOSIUM
Schedule of Events

October 7th — 9th
Anchorage Sheraton Hotel

Offering up to 20 hours CE and seeking approval from Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners (includes 3 hours of RACE approved CE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 7th</td>
<td>5—6pm</td>
<td>State and Federal Updates</td>
<td>Sarah Coburn, DVM; Louisa Castrodale, DVM, MPH; and Jodie Jones, DVM, MPH, DACVPM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6—7pm</td>
<td>Opening with Exhibitors—Light Hors d’oeuvres</td>
<td>Gold Sponsor</td>
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<td>7:05—8:05pm</td>
<td>Immunotherapy in Practice — RACE CE 1 hr.</td>
<td>Chelsea Greenberg, DVM, MS, DACVIM (Oncology) - Silver Sponsor</td>
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<td>8:10—9:10pm</td>
<td>Nutritional Modulation of the Microbiome — RACE CE 1 hr.</td>
<td>Jonathan Miller, DVM — Gold Sponsor</td>
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<td>Saturday, 8th</td>
<td>7—8am</td>
<td>Breakfast with Exhibitors</td>
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<td>8:10—Noon</td>
<td>Veterinarian Track</td>
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<td>Veterinary Technician Track</td>
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<td>What Does This Drug Do? Anesthesia/Analgesia Drug Deep Dive</td>
<td>Tommy Grubb, DVM, PhD, DACVAA - Diamond Sponsor</td>
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<td>1:30—5:30pm</td>
<td>Veterinarian Track</td>
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<td>(break 3:10—3:40pm)</td>
<td>First do no harm: Anesthetizing the Difficult Patient My Favorite Local Blocks Suffering Not Allowed: Treatment of Chronic Pain</td>
<td>Tammy Grubb, DVM, PhD, DACVAA - Diamond Sponsor</td>
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<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>AKVMA Membership Meeting (Refreshments)</td>
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<td>Session/Track</td>
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<td>7—8am</td>
<td>Breakfast and Breakfast Speaker</td>
<td>Avi Shaprut, DVM</td>
<td>Gold Sponsor</td>
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<td>Nutritional Management of Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease in Dogs</td>
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<td>RACE CE 1 hr.</td>
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<td>8:10—9:50am</td>
<td><strong>Veterinarian Track</strong></td>
<td>Andy Carver, DVM, DACVECC</td>
<td>Silver Sponsor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Respiratory Emergencies and Stabilization</td>
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<td>Cardiac Emergencies and Management</td>
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<td><strong>Veterinary Technician Track</strong></td>
<td>Pimploy Jong Carver, DVM</td>
<td>Diamond Sponsor</td>
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<td>Art of Triage and Trauma Care</td>
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<td>Blood Transfusion Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:50—10:20am</td>
<td>Refreshment Break with Exhibitors</td>
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<td>Silver Sponsor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon—1:30pm</td>
<td>Lunch with Exhibitors</td>
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<td>Diamond Sponsor</td>
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<td>Lakefield Veterinary Group</td>
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<td>1:30—3:10pm</td>
<td><strong>Veterinarian Track</strong></td>
<td>Dawn Webber, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology)</td>
<td>Silver Sponsor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pulmonary Hypertension followed by Case Studies</td>
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<td><strong>Veterinary Technician Track</strong></td>
<td>Pimploy Jong Carver, DVM</td>
<td>Silver Sponsor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Critical Anesthesia</td>
<td>Andy Carver, DVM, DACVECC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CPR and RECOVER Guidelines</td>
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<td>3:10—3:30pm</td>
<td>Refreshment Break</td>
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<td>3:30—5:15pm</td>
<td><strong>Veterinarian Track</strong></td>
<td>Dani McVety, DVM</td>
<td>Gold Sponsor</td>
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<td>The Art of Euthanasia</td>
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<td><strong>Veterinary Technician Track</strong></td>
<td>Pimploy Jong Carver, DVM</td>
<td>Silver Sponsor</td>
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<td>Tubes and Tube Management (3:30—4:20pm)</td>
<td>Andy Carver, DVM, DACVECC</td>
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<td>Anemia in Dogs and Cats: Have You Gotten the Most Out of Your Assessment? (4:25—5:15pm)</td>
<td>Caroline Landry, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM)</td>
<td>Silver Sponsor</td>
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**Early Bird Registration Rates until 9/13/22**

Discounted Rates for AKVMA Members
Discounted Rates for VTs/Assistants of AKVMA Members

[Register online here](#)

[Download paper registration form here](#)
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AVMA HOUSE OF DELEGATE UPDATE
Summer 2022
By Dr. Mary Ann Hollick & Dr. Amanda Taylor

The AVMA House of Delegates met on July 28-29 in Philadelphia. The House discussed two hot topics in veterinary medicine during the veterinary information forum. The HOD discussed needed updates to the Model Veterinary Practice Act such as license portability, roles and supervision of veterinary technicians and assistants, as well as telemedicine. The HOD also discussed the Responsibility to Provide Emergency Care as it pertains to the principles of veterinary medical ethics.

There were 5 resolutions brought forward to the House of Delegates for review. Resolutions will be brought to the House if a new policy is created, or if the Board of Directors determines the policy to be pertinent to the scope of practice.

- Resolution 6 - New Policy on Use of Prescription Drugs in Veterinary Medicine
  Alaska voted FOR this resolution. This resolution passed.

- Resolution 7 - New Policy on Adverse Event Reporting
  Alaska voted FOR this resolution. This resolution passed.

- Resolution 8 - Revised Policy on Genetic Modification of Animals in Agriculture
  Alaska voted FOR this resolution. This resolution passed.

- Resolution 9 - Revised Policy on Approval and Availability of Antimicrobials for Use in Food-Producing Animals
  Alaska voted FOR this resolution. This resolution passed.

- Resolution 10 - Revised Policy on Raw Milk
  Alaska voted FOR this resolution. This resolution passed.

Officer elections were held. Dr. Rena Carlson, Alaska’s former district 11 representative and a very familiar friendly face to Alaska was elected as President-Elect for the AVMA. We are hoping to see her this October at our State meeting! Dr. Carlson has been a very great friend and ally to our state, as well as a fantastic resource through her many years in the AVMA.

Journey for Teams is an initiative to incorporate DEI actions and thinking into daily life that was launched on July 29th, 2022. There will be webinars and booklets that will help your team with improving diversity in your workplace. All resources can be found at https://www.journeyforteams.org/.

There was an increased interest in telehealth during pandemic. Now that in-person visits have largely returned, telehealth visits have declined. Unfortunately, telehealth continues, but mostly outside of veterinary practices. On July 30th, 2022 AVMA launched a Coalition for Connected Veterinary Care to collaborate across the veterinary and animal health industry to enhance and expand care by leveraging technology, while simultaneously respecting the integrity of the veterinarian-client-patient relationship. The founding members are the AVMA, Veterinary Study Groups, and Merck Animal Health along with more than 30 other veterinary organizations and companies that have signed on so far. The AKVMA voted to sign on as one of the many organizations supporting this initiative.

AVMA is investigating the causes for workforce shortages, first to identify why there is a shortage so then a solution can be identified. Some key factors include underutilization of technicians, salary not keeping up with debt load, practices growing faster than DVM production which puts pressure on labor market, and pet numbers growing slower than DVM growth which constrains DVM wages. AVMA will host roundtables to drill down on workforce needs and challenges. Boots on the ground expertise is needed here, so keep an eye out for opportunities to join the discussion.

FDA finalized and published Guidance for Industry (GFI) #256 which describes the

HOD Update continues on page 9
HOD updates from page 8

agency’s approach to situations where veterinarians need access to unapproved drugs compounded from bulk drug substances (BDS) to provide appropriate care for the medical needs of the diverse species they treat when no FDA-approved (including conditionally approved) or indexed drug can be used to treat the animal. This means FDA is granting use of drugs compounding from FDA approved animal and human bulk drug substances list. The good news is it places few restrictions on patient-specific prescriptions for nonfood producing species. There is a call for nominations to attempt to get bulk drug substances (BDS) on the FDA list for use. Consult the Appendix of GFI #256 for needed information and submit our request for AVMA assistance to compounding@avma.org.

While politics are pretty polarized right now, AVMA PAC remains non-partisan. The AVMA works with those in congress that want to work with AVMA on veterinary issues. AVMA will remain dedicated to veterinary issues only, because for the long haul for our profession it’s important remain in the center aisle. Veterinarians need to be the cause of the good change, not at the effect of someone else’s change. We need to advocate for the protection of our profession. AVMA is attempting to expand grasstops and grassroots capabilities, grow the PAC, continue to improve the quality of interactions with state and allied VMAs.

The mission of the AVMF is to raise funds to improve animal health. The AVMF has raised over half a million dollars for Ukraine relief including supplies, care, food etc. You can visit the website AVMF.org where you can find stories and heartbreaking images of what our colleagues are going through in this part of the world.

The AVMA Online Educator community has continued to grow. Individuals involved in academia and the education of the next generation of our colleagues are invited to join this online educator community. This is a place to exchange ideas, learn about AVMA resources that may make jobs easier, and discuss challenges and opportunities unique to the world of academia. http://form.jotform.com/210466066513047

And last but not least, the AVMA LIFE has now opened group health insurance to members from the State of Alaska! As many recall, AVMA health insurance options disappeared with the Affordable Care Act. They have slowly been reintroduced through various states starting in 2019. In May of this year, Alaska residents are now eligible again! You must be a veterinarian, employing at least 2 employees and a member of the AVMA to qualify. Please contact avmatrustahp.com for more information.
Thank you to Zoetis Petcare - DIAMOND sponsor of the AKVMA Symposium

Experience CYTOJOY

The feeling you get when allergic dog itch is finally under control and life is as it should be

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Updates from the Office of the State Veterinarian

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Avian influenza surveillance in domestic poultry is progressing as in past years, morbidity/mortality investigations and health checks at agricultural fairs that are still holding a poultry exhibit. This year the Office of the State Veterinarian has been working very closely with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct surveillance of sick and dead domestic and wild birds for highly pathogenic avian influenza. USDA Wildlife Services is just beginning their surveillance efforts as migratory birds start their return journey. We are continuing to find cases of HPAI in wild birds throughout the state.

As wild birds migrate south this fall, backyard poultry flock owners should increase biosecurity practices. Maintaining separation between wild and domestic birds is the most important part of preventing spread of this virus to domestic poultry. Using dedicated footwear and clothing for each operation is important to prevent spread of pathogens between farms and from wild bird areas to the farm.

Please see our webpage for more resources, information on HAPI in North America, and confirmed cases in Alaska. HPAI has been confirmed in 2 backyard chicken flocks and 18 different wild bird species in the state, as well as 2 red foxes. [https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/announcements/avian-influenza-outbreaks/](https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/announcements/avian-influenza-outbreaks/)

- For any suspicious cases in domestic poultry, please call the Office of the State Veterinarian at 907-275-8215.
- For sick or dead wild birds, call USFWS Sick and Dead Bird Hotline: 1-866-527-3358.

This strain of HPAI poses a low risk of transmitting to people. However, personal protective equipment should still be used when handling sick or dead birds. [https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/influenza/avian/default.aspx](https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/influenza/avian/default.aspx)

Equine Enteric Coronavirus

Some cases of equine enteric coronavirus have been identified in the Mat-Su Valley.

Equine coronavirus (not to be confused with SARS-CoV-2!) manifests primarily with enteric disease in horses. Seroprevalence in the United States is estimated at 9.3 % (vet.cornell.edu/ Kooljman et al., 2017). Transmission occurs through the fecal-oral route, or through contact with contaminated surfaces. The incubation period is as short as 2 days up to 3 or 4 days. The timeframe of viral shedding in feces is not well-defined, but can range from 3 to 25 days. Asymptomatic carriers can occur, and shedding can be intermittent.

The best protection from this virus is through good biosecurity practices, such as maintaining sanitation of facilities, feeders, and waterers; appropriate disposal of manure; and isolating sick animals.

Please notify the Office of the State Veterinarian if you diagnose horses with this virus.

Invasive Ticks

The office is continuing tick surveillance (Submit a tick Program). Climate change is influencing movement of ticks in a northern pattern and the continued spread of the Asian Longhorn tick and Moose-winter tick are potential threats to animal populations in Alaska. We appreciate the support of veterinarians and the public in this surveillance program.

Submit a Tick Program

Information about the Submit a Tick Program can be found here: [https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/ticks/submit-a-tick/](https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/ticks/submit-a-tick/)

HOW TO CONTACT OUR STATE VETERINARIANS

**STATE VETERINARIAN**
Dr. Robert Gerlach
Phone: 907.375.8214
Email: bob.gerlach@alaska.gov

**ASSISTANT STATE VETERINARIAN**
Dr. Sarah Coburn
Phone: 907.375.8213
Email: sarah.coburn@alaska.gov
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AKVMA Executive Director
Patricia Anderson
AKVMA
Phone: 907.205.4272
Email: execdir@akvma.org

District XI AVMA Representative
Sandy Willis, DVM, MVSc, DACVIM

Membership is through each calendar year. Membership benefits include:

- Quality Professional Education—members receive discounted registration fee
- Legislative Advocacy
- Networking Events
- Veterinarian Practice Listing on AKVMA Website
- Leadership Opportunities
- Membership Perks (Job Postings, AKVMA Newsletter, Legislative Alerts)
- Veterinary Profession Updates
- Sponsorship of a Veterinary Leader to the AVMA Leadership Conference in January

Stay Connected!
Save the Dates!

2022 AKVMA SYMPOSIUM
October 7–9, 2022
Sheraton Anchorage

Annual AKVMA Membership Meeting
Sat., October 8
5:30pm
Sheraton Anchorage
Kuskokwim Room